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REPORT OF THE
MONTANA MENTAL DISABILITIES
BOARD OF VISITORS

ON

GALEN STATE HOSPITAL

STATE DOCUMENTS DEPARTMENT

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STATE OF MONTANA
Office of the Governor
Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors

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In accordance with the Treatment of the Developmentally Disabled Act of 1975, Title 38 Chapter 12 of the Revised Codes of Montana, 1947, the Montana Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors issues this report on the developmentally disabled population at Galen State Hospital.

Conducting this site visit were Al Bertelsen, Patricia Boedecker, Virginia Kenyon, Dr. Fran Rummel and staff member, Kelly Moorse. Dr. Higgins, superintendent; Mr. Joseph Balkovatz, administrator; and Donna Donich, Nursing Service Director accompanied the Board during this site visit.

After this report is presented to the superintendent of Galen State Hospital, it shall be made part of the annual report of the Board of Visitors to the Honorable Governor of the State of Montana.



Board of Visitors Review of

Galen State Hospital

November 18, 1977

Since the Board's last visit to Galen State Hospital on April 14, 1977 there has been a great reduction in the population of the developmentally disabled. The thirty-three males, who had been residing in Bryam Hall, where they lacked privacy, habilitation plans and reality orientation, have been moved to other facilities, primarily, Boulder River School and Hospital. There are presently ten women residing in Crockett II, with one woman soon to be placed at facilities in Big Sandy.

The ten women residing in Crockett II have been at Galen since 1963. For the most part these women are forty-five years of age and older and are only partially ambulatory. These women are housed in two-bed rooms and their rights of privacy and dignity appear to be honored. The Board questioned the dress of these women as many were wearing hospital gowns and robes. We were informed such dress exists to maintain cleanliness and sanitation.

The Board of Visitors found a very dedicated nursing staff who offer maximum care for these residents. The records, maintained by the hospital staff, seemed to be in good order.

The Board raised two concerns regarding the developmentally disabled population at Galen: that is the patients' right to habilitation (38-1222 (1) (a)-(2)) and their right to the least restrictive environment (38-1222 (2)). Although these patients

receive excellent nursing care, there is only a minimal amount of scheduled patient activity. By moving these residents to a facility which is least restrictive, (i.e. a nursing home) and which provides specialized programs, new potentials may be realized by these women.

In addition the Board of Visitors observed a large number of vacant rooms. With that observation, along with the inappropriate placement of this developmentally disabled population, it would seem that Montana citizens are supporting at least one more State facility than would seem necessary at this time.

